

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

BOB RILEY
GOVERNOR



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STATE OF ALABAMA

Dear Friends:

It's all about law enforcement saving lives and preventing injuries...

Alabama's *Click It or Ticket* campaign for May 2004 plays a critical role in our effort to keep people safe on our state's roads and highways. From May 24 to June 6, law enforcement agencies in communities across the state will be participating in the *Click It or Ticket Mobilization* that incorporates zero tolerance enforcement of safety belt laws with a special emphasis on teens and young adults. These efforts — coupled with media programming and the support of government agencies, traffic safety organizations, local advocates and others — will yet again result in dramatic increases in safety belt use, and will defend us against one of the greatest threats to us all — traffic crashes.

Some very alarming statistics were brought to my attention. In the most recent year reported (2002), 253 young people between the ages of 16 and 20 were killed or seriously injured in motor vehicle crashes — and 56 percent of them were not wearing a seatbelt! For 18- to 34-year olds, the numbers are even worse: 339 killed, 273 with incapacitating injuries, and almost 400 were not wearing seatbelts. *This is my personal plea — buckle your seatbelts!* It's not only the law but it also reduces the risk of fatal injury to front-seat passengers by 45 percent and the risk of moderate to critical injury by 50 percent.

The Memorial Day campaign in Alabama is part of the nationwide mobilization of law enforcement officers to increase awareness of seat belt and child restraint laws. We must continue our pursuit of increased highway and traffic safety to help ensure the safety of all who share Alabama's roadways.

Please remember that Alabama needs your help as we continue to strive for greater awareness and that the life you save may be your own.

With warm personal regards, I am

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bob Riley". The signature is stylized, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Governor